50. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether voters who are elected by Government to do work at the polling stations which are not their booths could not apply for certificates to allow them to vote at the polling stations where they are on duty;

(*b*) how many such applications were there from voters of the Vadakkancheri constituency;

(*c*) how many applications in (*b*) were allowed and on which date were the certificates sent to the voters;

(*d*) how many applications in (*c*) were not allowed; what was the reason for not allowing them;

(*e*) was the Returning Officer for Vadakancheri at Head-Quarters on the Sunday preceding the date of the elections?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 51 applications were received.

(*c*) 29 applications were allowed. 12 certificates were sent on 25th May 1945 (12th Edavam 1120 and 17 on 26th May 1945 (13th Edavam 1120).

(*d*) 22 applications were not allowed, being received late, *i. e.*, on 17th Edavam 1120 (30th May 1945).

(*e*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In the list published only the assistants and the Chief Polling Officers are mentioned. May I know who selects these persons who are eligible to vote.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The Presiding Officer has got the right to select.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the Government in a position to tell the House after how many days after the original notification was sent out these officers selected their subordinates?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The Government is not in a position to say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it the position of the Government Sir, that these subordinates selected can apply before knowing that they are selected?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is not the position of the Government, that anybody can apply before knowing that he is selected?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പോളിംഗ് ആഫീസർമാരുടെ പേരുകൾ കാലേക്കൂട്ടി പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികൾക്കു അവരെ ധാരാളം ഇൻഫ്ളുവൻസ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: അത്രയൊന്നും അവർക്കു ആലോചനയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു സൌജന്യമുണ്ടെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ലിസ്റ്റ് പുറത്താക്കരുതെന്നു ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരവർകൾ താലൂക്കിലേക്കു് നോട്ടീസ്സു കൊടുക്കുകയുണ്ടായോ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Will you please repeat the question? I did not catch you.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ: കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുത്തപ്പോൾ എതെങ്കിലും revising ഓഫീസറോടു്, താസിൽദാരോടു്, ഇതു പുറത്തുവിടരുതെന്നുള്ള നോട്ടീസ്സു് കൊടുക്കുകയുണ്ടായോ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If it was to be kept secret it would not have been published.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അങ്ങിനെയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് രഹസ്യമായി വെക്കേണ്ടതു് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു് തോന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That is why I enquire, Sir, whether the Government is in a position to tell us as to how many days the Presiding Officers or the assistant took for the selection of their sub-ordinates—because it was vacation period you must remember.

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Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have answered that the Government is not in a position to give an answer, because in 413 places we must know on which dates the subordinate officers were appointed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the Government to tell us how many of such selected persons voted ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am not in a position to tell.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With reference to sub-division (c) may I know whether these certificates were sent by Anchal or by any another method ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the certificate allowing them to vote at their respective stations were sent to their permanent address or to the posts to which they were selected ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am not in a position to say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to sub-division (d) may I know whether there were not 22 applications received by Anchal ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* They were received by Anchal.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know when they were posted ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Probably they were posted on the 13th. I will explain the circumstances. "22 applications were received by Anchal on 17th Edavam 1120. Being late no certificates were issued. I was told by the clerk who was put on duty on Sunday 14th Edavam 1120 that these applications were taken there by Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan at about 3 p.m. As the applications were not forwarded through the head of the office the clerk was not able to identify the signatures, he told Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan that he shall accept the application and sent the certificates by Anchal. Mr. Ezhuthassan wanted the certificates to be handed over to him. This the clerk refused. So he took them back to Vadakkancheri and sent the same by post and I received the same on 17th Edavam 1120, two days after the polling was over". This is what the Returning Officer has written to me. I have got the applications with me. It was difficult to find out who the applicants were in some cases. I have got a specimen here and I will show it to you, Sir.

Mr. President: We shall take the Ho n'ble Member's word for it.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* "The application does not show from whom it proceeded; there is only the signature; it is not possible to read the name, the voter's number was not stated in it. The place is stated to be Vadakkancheri—that is all that is stated. In another application it is not possible to know to whom it was addressed—it is only stated Returning Officer".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Out of 22, how many are like that ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I was not able to go through all. The applications were not forwarded through the superior officer either. The number of the voter is not seen in many of the applications. That was the reason why the clerk said it was not possible to hand over the certificate then and there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I heard the Diwan Peishkar saying that it was taken back to Vadakkancheri. Is it correct?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It was presumed that it was taken back to Vadakkancheri.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the Government is in a position to say whether it was posted in the Anchal Office which is in the next room to the Co-operative Registrar's Office ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The fact is better known to the Hon'ble Member than to the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the cover available ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Please search for it, then you will find. It is stated that the Returning Officer was not at Headquarters. May I know where he was ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* He was at Ernakulam.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Had he made any arrangement for the issue of certificate if brought at any time before the election commenced.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes. He had. And read that portion of his letter. I purposely wrote the Returning Officer and got a reply from him and I read that portion "A clerk was put on duty on Sunday.....".

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Mr. President: Read only sentence relevant.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* "I was told by the clerk put on duty on Sunday 14th Edavam 1120 that Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan brought these applications on 14th Edavam 1120. As the applications were not forwarded through the head of the office the clerk was not able to identify the signature. He told Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan that he would send the certificates by Anchal to the address given in the applications".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether that communication contains any reference of the candidate, that is my poor self, having gone to the office at 8 O'clock in morning and being told that there are no forms no organisation here and hence I am helpless ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Nothing to show that.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* May I know whether there is a conspiracy between the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri and the Diwan Peishkar to stagnate this House with this particular question ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwn Piushkar):* I am not a party to any conspiracy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What is the enquiry, Sir, because I did not hear him well.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member may put another supplementary question if he wishes to do so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know what the enquiry was, because my name was also mentioned ?

Mr. President : Order, order. The Hon'ble Member will kindly proceed if he wishes to put further supplementary questions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It seems to be useless and therefore I stop, Sir.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : വോട്ടർമാരുടെ അപേക്ഷകൾ അവർതന്നെ നേരി ട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നില്ലേ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice as to whether it should be presented in person or not.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികൾ അല്ല അവരിൽനിന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കൊ ണ്ടുവന്ന രീതിക എന്നു വരുമ്പോൾ അത് ഇൻഫ്ളുവൻസ് ചെയ്യുകയല്ലേ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* These are all inferences drawn and not questions put to elicit facts, and so I can give no answer.

51. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) have not the ballot boxes used for the last general elections been painted very faintly;

(*b*) have not the Government heard complaints that it had been difficult to properly know the colour of the ballot boxes;

(*c*) was there not want of sufficient light in the booths?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) There was a report in the "Cochin Express" dated 1st June 1945.

(*c*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether any light Hurricane lanterns or table lamps, were supplied to be used in the polling booths ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice. I did not supply any. Undoubtedly if there was any necessity the local officers would have provided them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Was any supply made to any election officer of any sort of lights to be used at the polling booths.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am unable to give any answer. I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Did the Chief Election Officer supply any booth or all the booths with any lights ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If by the words "Chief Election Officer" the Hon'ble Member means "the Diwan Peishkar" the answer is that he did not supply, I have given the answer.

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